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T.M.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richard K. Bolen Atty. Docket No. 072398.00003
Serial No.: 09/ 954,771 Group Art Unit: 3651
Filed: September 18, 2001 Examiner: Gerald A. Anderson
Invention: "SECURE MERCHANDISE-VENDING MACHINE"

AMENDMENT A

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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MAR 28 2003

SIR:

GROUP 3600

In response to the Office Action dated December 19, 2002, Applicant
requests that the claims be amended by substituting revised claims 1-4 as here
enclosed in clean, and separately highlighted form.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A bulk vending machine having a base, said base having peripheral walls and a top frame secured therewith for enclosing a coin box on a plurality of sides and for supporting a merchandise container having four peripheral side walls secured to a bottom floor, a coin box in said base, a lid covering said merchandise container, [a first lock securing said lid to said base for preventing upward separation of said container from said base,] said base having a vertical front wall providing coin box access when said container floor and said base top frame are vertically separated, [pivotal forwardly about its slower edge when released by relative upward movement of said merchandise container], and a [second] lock engagable when said container is resting snuggly on top of the base frame positively